## CIVILIANS

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papers made charges that Democratic President James Polk did not want to entrust the military to Gen Winfield Scott or Gen Zachary Taylor, two Whig generals. The papers were right.

After the Union defeat at the Civil War Battle of Fredericksburg, Va., President Abraham Lincoln decided to appoint Maj Gen Joseph Hooker as commander of the Army of the Potomac - the leading army of the Union.

He wrote Maj Gen Hooker one of the most amazing letters in American civilian-military relations.

Lincoln said in part: "I have heard, in such way as to believe it, of your recently saying that both the Army and the Government needed a Dictator. Of course it was not for this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command. Only those generals who gain successes, can set up dictators. What I now ask of you is military suc-

Be safe, Buckle up!

cess, and I will risk the dictatorship."

The country survived the Civil War with the idea of civilian control of the military still intact.

Today, servicemembers are encouraged to vote.

Military members swear "to support and defend the Constitution of the United States." One of the more successful aspects of that document is civilian control of the

## Being a parent is tough

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